**“The Crucible”**

**Pre-Reading Questions**

Directions: Write down your response to each of the questions below.

1. Have you ever been accused of something that you didn’t do? How did the accusation make you feel? What were your reactions? Anger? Indignation? Sadness?

2. What is a “witch hunt”? Do all witch hunts have to do with witches? Would you like to be the subject of a witch hunt? Explain.

3. What does it mean to be “guilty until proven innocent”? Is this the way our court system works? Should it? Explain.

4. What is peer pressure? What does it mean to “go along with the crowd”? Have you ever felt obligated to do or say something because those around you wanted you to?

5. You have been wrongfully accused of cheating on an exam. If you admit to cheating, you will serve a lunch detention, have the chance to take the test again, and have the incident recorded in your permanent school record. If you maintain your innocence, you will receive a zero on the exam and an after-school detention. You will not, however, be labeled a cheater on your school records. What are the plusses and minuses of each choice? Would you rather be labeled a cheater and receive less punishment, or defend your innocence and receive a larger punishment?